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RECOMMENDATION OF ACADEMICIAN YE. N. PAVLOVSKIY
AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE GOLD MEDAL IMENI I. I. MECHNIKOV

Academician K. I. Shryabin

Pavlovskiy is the founder and head of one of the largest scientific parasitological schools in the USSR. He organized and conducted more than 150 important expeditions, mainly in the southern and eastern regions of the USSR. These expeditions were conducted to carry on general epidemiologic-parasitological surveys of these territories to clarify major problems in regional parasitology in the interests of public health and agriculture.

Later tasks of the expeditions dealt with the study of individual problems of economic and defensive import. In particular, methods were worked out for the fight against papatacci fever based upon the etiological study of the phlebotomus, the specific carrier of the virus. Further, the epidemiology of relapsing fever was studied. The latter study emphasized the role of parasitological factors, and the etiology of highly contagious, summer intestinal diseases in Central Asia, and developed countermeasures for these diseases.

Pavlovskiy's survey expedition to study tick and Japanese encephalitis was very important.

One of the expeditions established the presence of tick-borne typhus fever, posing another parasitological problem for Soviet public health authorities.

Field studies and examinations of the material gathered on the expeditions led Pavlovsky to initiate a study on the natural nid of infectious diseases transmitted by insects and ticks. It was established that a number of nids exist in nature which in their origin and existence are not connected with man. However, when man is exposed in a region with such nids during the infectious season, he may fall ill through the medium of carriers.

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This study has proven very fruitful since it has facilitated the study of a number of unknown infectious diseases, and led to the determination of the geographical distribution of these diseases. The development of Pavlovskiy's study on the natural nidi of diseases based on the ecologico-parasitological investigation has yielded interesting results in practical and scientific matters. In many instances, the complex cycle of the causative agent has been followed -- from the organism of the diseased to the carrier, and from the latter to the recipient, as the process occurs independently of man on the basis of the associations of the fellow members of biocenosis on the biotope of the natural nidus.

This innovative study permitted Ye. N. Pavlovskiy and his students to develop systematic measures for eliminating natural nidi of certain diseases, and reducing the epidemic potential of other nidi.

Pavlovskiy has also done a great deal of work on another problem closely linked with the problem of natural nidi of diseases, namely, the problem of the organism which sometimes acts as a host with harm to itself, and sometimes as a host without harm to itself. This problem embraces the study of parasites detached from the external medium, primarily, with the organism of the host in whose body the parasite feeds. At the same time, those factors in the external medium which influence the organism of the host and the organism of the parasite are being studied. Similarly, under consideration are problems linked with the possibility of man acting upon the parasitic medium which have direct application in practical public health problems.

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